

G-III-C-187

Mae Caruthers House
Jennings
Private

ca.1900

The Mae Caruthers vertical frame house is a two story, two-bay by one-bay, gable roof structure with a single story, two-bay by one-bay gable roof addition at the west elevation.

The vertical weatherboard planking has been left exposed.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mae Caruthers House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bear Hill Rd. approx. 1-3/4 miles N. of Maynardier Ridge Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Jennings

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oakland

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

G-III-C-187

CONDITION☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This vertical frame house is situated in a hilly, semi-wooded area on Bear Hill Road approximately 1-3/4 miles north of Maynardier Ridge Road. It is a two story, two-bay by one-bay, gable roof structure with a single story, two-bay by one-bay gable roof addition at the west elevation. The house is entered from the north elevation of this addition.

Two over two sash windows, framed with rough flat boards, light the house.

The vertical weatherboard planking has been left exposed. The roof is covered with tar paper.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an example of a common Western Maryland type. Houses of this general configuration, a rectangular main block and rear kitchen wing, were constructed in Garrett County from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson, Architectural Historian, Catherine Crawford, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

G III-C-187



The News American

Baltimore, Maryland

Tuesday, May 1, 1979

15 Cents

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Bear Hill, Md.

By Timothy Moore
News American Staff

ACCIDENT — Out here in the rolling hills of Garrett County, where land prices are rising and the number of native-born residents is falling, there is one area most folks think will never change: Bear Hill.

"You don't go up on Bear Hill alone," said Joe Miller, a local resident who spends some time at Little Henry's Bar in this town named for a couple of surveyors bumping into each other by "accident." "The last time a state trooper went up on Bear Hill, they was real nice to him — they just shot the bubble off the roof."

Such tales about Bear Hill abound like the streams and rhododendron here in one of Maryland's most beautiful and rural counties, an area of about 25,000 residents that borders West Virginia. People in this county earn their living by doing anything from farming to cabinetmaking to working in the newer businesses such as Bausch and Lomb Glass Co., which was hired to Western Maryland by cheaper labor and profitable tax breaks. Garrett County also collects revenue — about \$15 million in retail spending annually — through the tourist industry, inviting residents from surrounding states to enjoy the natural beauty.

But no such invitation comes from Bear Hill,

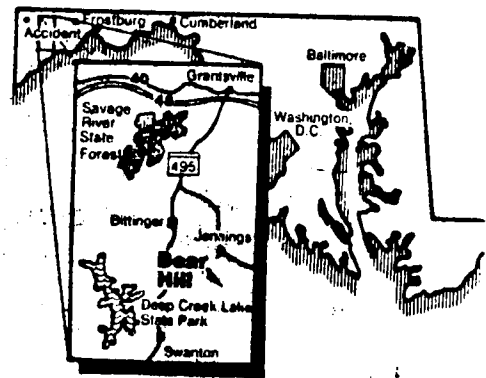
“They stick together like leeches. If you get shot up there, no one from Bear Hill would say anything.”

a rural, backwoods area 10 miles from Accident that's full of mountain families who have been known to shoot the windows out of one another's houses and settle arguments "personally ... with buckshot."

"They don't take kindly to strangers," said Stanley Pazenbach, another Accident resident. "It's been that way ever since the Melky Miller Distillery went out of business during Prohibition."

Which may explain why some residents of Bear Hill aren't known for laying out the welcome mat.

See ACCIDENT, 6A



181
G III - C
ACCIDENT from 1A

It was during the early 1930s that residents of Bear Hill first earned the reputation of making the best moonshine in Garrett County, a quality largely attributed to the pureness of the water in the Cumberland Mountains. Even though the prices of corn and starch have pushed moonshine sky high, Bear Hill sour corn mash is, according to local sources, still available and tastes as pure as ever, better than the store-bought variety.

"It's like the difference between a \$3 and \$30 coat," one patronizer said. "One keeps you warm — the other sets your brain on fire."

How residents of Bear Hill have managed to keep a stronghold on an industry that has disappeared in most areas says something in itself about the reputation of Bear Hill. Even Garrett County Sheriff John Evans admits "they still run a little out there," and names like Hays, Wilts and Fazenbakers bring a note of caution to many otherwise loose beer joints.

"Let's just put it this way," said Miller, a heavyset fellow with blond curly hair. "If you know them and they like you, you won't find a nicer group of people anywhere. If you don't know 'em, you're better off staying out of their neighborhood." And then he paused. "Forever."

Apparently, law enforcement officials feel the same way. "They stick together like leeches," Evans said. "If you got shot up there, no one from Bear Hill would say anything. They're mighty tight about their business."

Evans said he has seen bullets, knives and guns in certain households "just piled up on the beds." Several years ago, the Fazenbaker family had a feud, and one of the four sons shot his daddy and then shot himself. When word filtered

down to the sheriff (not Evans at the time), he drove out the winding dirt road that leads to Bear Hill. At the foot of Fazenbaker driveway, he called out to one of the three remaining sons.

"What'd he shoot him for?" asked the sheriff.

"'Cause he was shooting him," one of the sons called back.

"When the Fazenbakers feud, you can't get the law anywhere near here," said Rose Flanagan, a Bear Hill housewife, who admits things aren't nearly as wild here as they used to be. "You won't find me anywhere nearby neither."

Last week, in the interest of satisfying or debunking a mighty reputation, a reporter set out for Bear Hill, and specifically for the Fazenbaker household. Getting directions for Bear Hill was the first step. A Garrett County deputy sheriff wasn't quite sure of its whereabouts. "Isn't that somewhere in Pennsylvania?" said a Mr. Drinnings, who had stopped his patrol car. "Why don't you ask inside — I gotta go."

"Inside" didn't know, either, and neither did several other shopkeepers. "Never heard of it," was a frequent and abrupt reply.

Finally, at a bar in Accident, an older, affable gentleman named Ted, who claimed once to have helped string fence on Bear Hill, offered directions. "I wouldn't go up there if I were you," said Ted, his arms curled around a beer as if he were carrying a football.

"Will you go up there with me? They wouldn't shoot me if you were with me," asked the visitor, his tongue half in cheek.

"They's a pretty good shot," came the quick reply.

"I won't ask any questions," the visitor promised.

"You won't have to," Ted fired back. Having obtained directions, the visitor set out for Bear Hill, stopping passers-by for opinions when he could.

"Oh, its reputation is worse than it is," said a workman from the nearby Harbison-Walker Refractory below Grantsville. "Just don't break down and leave your car overnight, 'cause it ain't going to be there in the morning."

At a combination grocery store and gas station just above the turnoff for Bear Hill, a gentleman named Brannen said there was no danger. "Oh, it ain't as rough as it used to be," he said, sacking some groceries for a customer. "It's been well over a year since someone has been shot up there."

"Who shot whom?" inquired the visitor.

"I don't know," he said. "I don't stay up there long enough to find out."

At last the reporter began ascending Bear Hill, an area as green and as beautiful as any part of Garrett County. Rhododendron lined the narrow, paved road, which soon became gravel. A winding stream weaved in and out. Clapboard box houses dotted the sides of the road.

But, then, as the ascension continued, clotheslines full of blue jeans and cars propped up on cinderstone began to proliferate. Next came cars without cinderstone blocks, then cars without much of anything began to appear.

For the most part, foliage covered the auto crust, but now and then a rusty bumper gave way to a whole stack full of old models. "No Trespassing" and "Stay Out" signs were nailed to trees and fence posts. Then down the road came Rose Flanagan, headed the opposite way in a pickup.

"The Fazenbakers live at the end of the road, but if I were you, I wouldn't go up there," she said. "They don't oblige to

strange cars. Just keep on past the bridge and bear right."

As the reporter approached the Fazenbakers, the road became all dirt. Just short of the bridge, a long, narrow driveway led up a hill to where a green house with a green roof sat beneath one of the largest personal collections of stacked rusty cars in Garrett County. There was an eerie silence to the scene. No sign of life. A steady breeze blew a cup across the uncut grass.

No sooner had the visitor traveled five feet in the driveway than a tall fellow, roughly dressed and unshaven, came out on the front porch with what looked like a good-sized stick in his hand. Instinctively, the visitor stopped his car and got out, still a good 200 yards from the Fazenbaker, who stood fearless, staring down from his house on the hill.

"What the hell you want?" came the opening question, and from the tone of his voice it sounded like he had just been awakened from a nap.

"Mr. Fazenbaker, I'm a reporter and I..."

"What the hell you want?" the man growled.

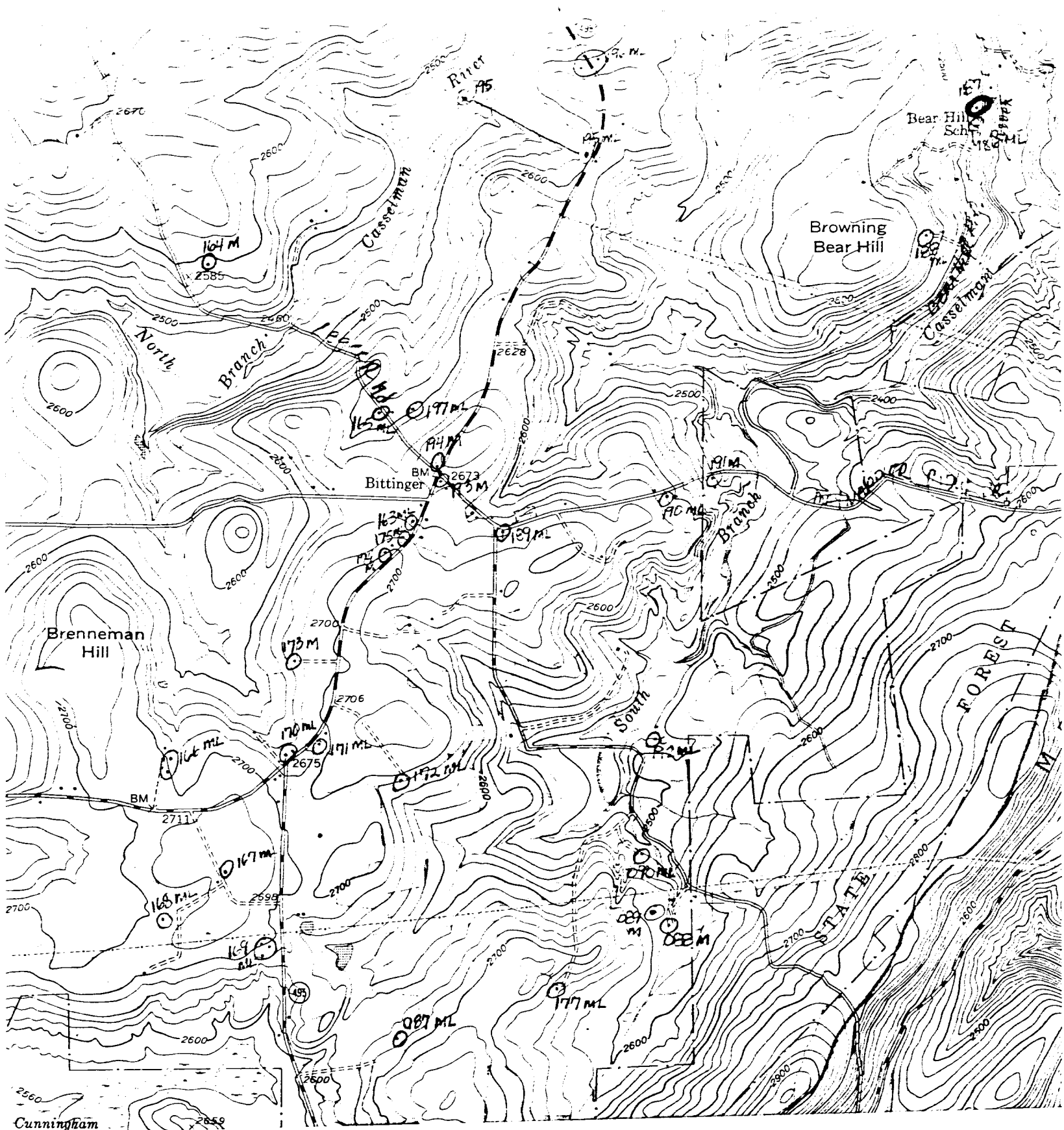
"Well," the visitor said, fumbling for conversation. "Why did he shoot his father?"

"'Cause he was a son of a bitch," came the reply.

"What?"

"He was a son of a bitch! And if you don't get out of here, I'll do the same to you."

Discretion being the better part of valor, and staying alive being the better part of living, the reporter didn't ask whether it was the son or the daddy who was the s.o.b. He obliged Mr. Fazenbaker's request and headed directly off Bear Hill. And, it should be reported, he left Bear Hill forever.



Bittinger, MD
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1947; photorevised 1974

G-III-C-187
 Mae Caruthers House
 Bear Hill Road, approx.
 1 3/4 miles N of Maynardier
 Ridge Road



G-III-C-187

Mae Caruthers House

Garrett County, MD

M. Stinson 1981

E & N elevation



G-III-C-187

Mae Caruthers House

Garrett County, MD

M. Stinson 1981

S elevation